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system controlling means coupled to said signal processing  
means for controlling generation of the output signal of said  
signal processing means.

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to refer to the parent cases and the five related multiple reissue continuation applications. Attached hereto is an amended copy of column 1 of the specification.

Submitted herewith are the following documents:

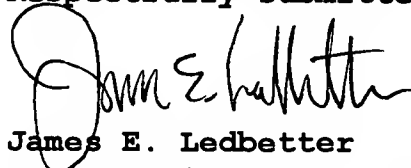
- (1) Supplemental Reissue Declaration;
- (2) Assent of Assignee to Reissue;
- (3) Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b); and
- (4) Declaration as to Inaccessibility of Original Letters Patent.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the

undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 28,732

Date: April 6, 2001

JEL/att

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. JEL 28567RE-C

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91. (Amended) An optical recording/reproducing system comprising;

(a) an optical recording/reproducing apparatus for recording, reproducing or erasing an information signal onto/from any one of N types (where  $N \geq 2$ ) of optical discs having first layers of different thicknesses, each type of said optical discs having at least said first layer being transparent and a second layer for storing information, said apparatus comprising:

an optical head including (i) a light emitting means for emitting a light flux, [and] (ii) a converging means for converging said light flux onto said second layer of any one of said N types of optical discs loaded in said apparatus, and performing aberration correction at said light flux in correspondence with the one of the optical discs loaded in said apparatus and (iii) photo detecting means for detecting reflective light from said optical discs; and

an optical head moving means arranged in said apparatus for moving said optical head relative to the optical disc loaded in said apparatus to traverse a recording track thereof;

wherein said converging means comprises different numerical apertures and converges said light flux as a smaller spot diameter D by employing a larger one of said effective numerical

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apertures, with respect to one of said optical discs having a thinner one of said first layers, and

wherein a thickness of said first layers of each of said N types of optical discs is about 1.2mm or less;

(b) a signal processing means, responsive to one of (i) a reproduction signal, corresponding to said information signal, from said photo detecting means and (ii) receipt of recording data, corresponding to said information signal, for recording on said disk, for generating an output signal corresponding to said information signal for performing one of a reproducing operation and a recording operation; and

(c) a system controlling means coupled to said signal processing means for controlling generation of the output signal of said signal processing means.

95. (Amended) An optical recording/reproducing system comprising: (a) an optical recording/reproducing apparatus for recording, reproducing or erasing an information signal onto/from any one of N types (where  $N \geq 2$ ) of optical discs having first layers of different thicknesses, each type of said optical discs having at least said first layer being transparent and a second layer for storing information, said apparatus comprising:

an optical head including (i) a light emitting means for emitting a light flux, [and] (ii) a converging optical system including first converging means including a first numerical

aperture and a second converging means including a second numerical aperture, said optical system for converging, by employing one of said first converging means and said second converging means, said light flux onto said second layer of any one of said N types of optical discs loaded in said apparatus and for performing aberration correction at said light flux in correspondence with the one of the optical discs loaded in said apparatus and (iii) photo detecting means for detecting reflective light from said optical discs; and

an optical head moving means arranged in said apparatus for moving said optical head relative to the optical disc loaded in said apparatus to traverse a recording track thereof;

wherein said converging optical system converges said light flux as a spot with a smaller diameter D by employing one of said first converging means and said second converging means having a larger one of said numerical apertures, with respect to one of said optical discs having a thinner one of said first layers, and

wherein a thickness of said first layers of each of said N types of optical discs is about 1.2mm or less;

b) a signal processing means, responsive to one of (i) a reproduction signal, corresponding to said information signal, from said photo detecting means and (ii) receipt of recording data, corresponding to said information signal, for recording on said disk, for generating an output signal corresponding to said

information signal for performing one of a reproducing operation and a recording operation; and

(c) a system controlling means coupled to said signal processing means for controlling generation of the output signal of said signal processing means.

97. (Amended) A system comprising:

(a) an optical recording/reproducing apparatus for recording, reproducing or erasing an information signal onto/from any one of N types (where  $N \geq 2$ ) of optical discs having first layers of different thicknesses, each type of said optical discs having at least said first layer being transparent and a second layer for storing information, said apparatus comprising:

an optical head including (i) a light emitting means for emitting a light flux, [and] (ii) a converging optical system including first converging means including a first numerical aperture and a second converging means including a second numerical aperture, said optical system for converging, by employing one of said first converging means and said second converging means, said light flux onto said second layer of any one of said N types of optical discs loaded in said apparatus and for performing aberration correction at said light flux in correspondence with the one of the optical discs loaded in said apparatus and (iii) photo detecting means for detecting reflective light from said optical discs; and

an optical head moving means arranged in said apparatus for moving said optical head relative to the optical disc loaded in said apparatus to traverse a recording track thereof;

wherein said converging optical system converges said light flux as a spot with a smaller diameter  $D$  by employing one of said first converging means and said second converging means having a larger one of said numerical apertures, with respect to one of said optical discs having a thinner one of said first layers, and wherein a thickness of said first layers of each of said  $N$  types of optical discs is about 1.2mm or less;

(b) a signal processing apparatus including:

signal processing means, responsive to one of (i) a reproduction signal, corresponding to said information signal, from said photo detecting means and (ii) receipt of recording data, corresponding to said information signal, for recording on said disk, for generating an output signal corresponding to said information signal for performing one of a reproducing operation and a recording operation; and

system controlling means coupled to said signal processing means for controlling generation of the output signal of said signal processing means.